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30 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Psychological Strategy Board

SUBJECT : Continuation of the Functions of the External
Research Staff, Department of State

1. The Department of State, faced with the requirement of a budget cut and reducing the personnel on the rolls of the Department, has decided to eliminate the functions of the External Research Staff.

2. For over four years the External Research Staff (ERS) has served the Department of State, the Department of Defense, CIA, and more recently, the PSB as a clearing house for social science research sponsored by Government agencies, universities, foundations and other research organizations. It has also negotiated contracts for some Government agencies.

3. Recently, when PSB was studying the problem of the coordination of research in support of psychological warfare, CIA, in attempting to ensure improvement in the coordination of such research, indicated that the greatest potential for such coordination lay in the support and development of the External Research Staff in the Department of State. CIA arranged, accordingly, on 2 December 1952, a contribution to the ERS at the rate of \$62,032 a year and simultaneously urged the Secretary of Defense to make available financial support. The RDB, Department of Defense, has undertaken to provide such support at the rate of \$30,000 a year.

4. CIA has informally consulted representatives of the PSB, RDB, Army, Navy, and Air Force who are involved in external research functions of those agencies. Each has agreed that the functions performed by the External Research Staff should be continued in their mutual interests. Furthermore, it was their feeling that this function can best be performed under the nominal auspices of the

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State Department. CIA concurs.

5. In view of these developments, it is believed that the function heretofore carried on by External Research Staff, OIR, State Department, should be continued. Such continuance can be on a reduced basis, utilizing CIA and RDB funds. If this can be done, OIR, State, has informally agreed to permit these activities to be carried on under State auspices, to provide necessary space for personnel, and to continue to provide the service of the full time Chief of this staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

6. That PSE approve the continuance of the functions heretofore carried on by External Research Staff, OIR, State Department, on the aforesaid basis, in view of the value of such function to the Departments and agencies represented thereon.

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